

NEWS RELEASE

Experiential Learning Week 2011

Hamilton – November 18, 2011. The Industry Education Council of Hamilton (IEC) is proud to support Experiential Learning Week 2011, which will be observed across Ontario during the week of November 21-25, 2011. IEC celebrates the week by applauding exemplary partnerships between Hamilton employers and educators that provide elementary and secondary school students with meaningful career-related learning opportunities, through programs like cooperative education, job shadowing, career mentoring, workplace tours, career talks and career fairs.

Experiential Learning Week was launched last year with the intent to increase awareness about the importance of employers' roles in educating and preparing youth for the future workforce. "In Hamilton, a large number of employers offer meaningful, first-hand work experiences to our students. These positive contributions in engaging young people while they prepare to choose their career pathways need to be celebrated and congratulated," says Beth Gibson, School-Work Transition Manager. In honour of Experiential Learning Week, IEC has organized workplace tours that will take place at the following workplaces:

November 21 (10am- 11am) - The Dundas Valley School of Arts: Students will learn about various careers in the Arts and Culture sector. Art history, ceramics, drawing, hot glass blowing, jewellery, printmaking, photography and sculpture are some of the areas the students will discover.

November 22 (10am -12pm) - The City of Hamilton: Students will visit Hamilton's Council Chambers and Mayor's office. They will attend a meeting and complete a hands-on activity at the Small Business Enterprise Centre.

November 22 (12am-2:30pm) - Quantum Murray: Students will explore the various types of emergency response occupations and career opportunities at Quantum Murray.

November 23 (12pm-2.30pm) - St. Joseph's Villa: Teachers will have the opportunity to discover the vast number of careers within long-term care homes. They will also have the opportunity to preview a brand new co-op recruitment video.

November 24 (8.30am to 10am) - Astral Media Radio Stations: Students will have the opportunity to learn about the different types of careers within a radio broadcasting organization. The morning show personalities will speak to the students about their careers.

November 25 (10am-11am) – Garwood-Jones and Hanham Architects: Students will have the opportunity to discover a local architectural firm that specializes in institutional facilities design in: education, sports, recreation, housing, healthcare, and religion.

These are valuable opportunities for students and teachers, not only to understand the diverse career options in different sectors, but also to get to know Hamilton employers and their contributions in our community. The host employers also benefit from their involvement since the tours provide them with the opportunity to meet and inspire the future workforce, by showcasing the various career choices in their business and sectors. The event calendar can be accessed at <http://www.iechamilton.ca/ELW-Poster.pdf>

Experiential Learning Week is supported by the IEC, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and local employers.

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For additional information on Experiential Learning Week 2011 please contact:

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